Measures for operation of acute water shortage

2873. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY:

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to initiate the long term and lasting solutions to prevent acute water shortage in the country in view of the recurrence of drought in certain areas;

(b) what are the programmes taken up to conserve our water resources;

(c) whether Government are working on a Water Management Policy; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Irrigation facilities are being extended during the plan periods to reduce the rigour of drought. Furher, surveys for exploring ground water resources have also been stepped up. Studies have also been taken up on the peninsular component of the national perspective plan for water resource development which envisages the transfer of surplus water to deficit areas.

(c) and (d) The National Water Resources Council headed by the Prime Minister, in its first meeting, set up a Group of Ministers and Chief Ministers to draft a National Water Policy document. The draft is to be considered in the second meeting of the Council.

Expansion of steel plant

2874. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present capacty of TISCO steel plant and the percentage utilisation of its capacity during the last two years;

(b) whether Government have any information about its plan for expansion of its capacity; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) The following statement provides the information:—

Year	Installed Capacity of Saleable Steel	Capacity Utilisation
1984-85	1.74 MTPA	99
1985-86	1.74 MTPA	101.85%

TISCO have a licenced capacity of 2.1 million tonnes of saleable steel which they will achieve on completion of Phase II of their Modernisation Programme in 1988-89.

(b) and (c) TISCO have submitted a proposal to Government for an 'in principle' approval to further modernise their steel plant. The proposed modernisation is also expected to result in further expansion of capacity by about 1 million tonnes of saleable steel. The proposal is under examination.

Export earning from agricultural commodities

2875. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND

CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the FAO's World Food Report (1986) which projects a dismal picture for developing countries in the matter of real export earnings from agricultural commodities;

(b) what is the projected food surplus of India during 1987-88; and

(c) the manner in which it is proposed to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir, the Report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) As the demand for foodgrains in the country depends on various factors, such as population growth, extent of urbanisation, levels of income, prices of substitutable foodgrains, level of production etc., precise estimates of requirement of foodgrains in the country are not available.

(c) There is considerable scope for increasing internal consumption of foodgrains in the country and as such the available stocks are proposed to be utilized mainly for meeting this requirement.

Nodal agencies for implementation of supply of goods and services

2676. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act has commenced showing results as envisaged in the Act;

(b) whether his Ministry is likely to serve as a nodal administrative agency for implementation of all safeguards for supply of goods and services at the earliest;

(c) whether one nodal authority is likely to be named in every State Capital and in each District for dealing with every Consumers' complaint and for its statutory redressal within one month; and

(d) whether voluntary Consumer federations are likely to be inducted into this job?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The Consumer Protection Act was passed in the last Winter Session of the Parliament. Steps are being taken to ensure that the institutions envisaged in the Act become functional as early as possible.

(b) In view of the diverse nature of goods and services, it would not be possible for the Department of Civil Supplies to implement all the safeguards in this regard. It is, however, functioning as a nodal Department for coordination of work relating to consumer protection.

(c) In the Consumer Protection Act a redressal machinery at the National, State and District level has been provided for speedy and inexpensive redressal of consumer complaints.

(d) Voluntary consumer organisations, alongwith other concerned sections of the society would be represented on the Consumer Protection Councils at the National and State levels, proposed to be set up under the Consumer Protection Act.